

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 /076 W
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R 121224Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0585

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: PRESS ON PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO INDIA

1. INDIAN NEWSPAPERS AUGUST 12TH CARRY ESSENCE OF
NEWSWEEK "PERISCOPE" ITEM ON CANCELLATION OF PRESIDENT
FORD'S PLANS TO VISIT INDIA. CENSORED ACCOUNTS GIVE NO
GREASON FOR MOVE AND KEY PHRASE IN MAGAZINE STORY
"...SCRUBBED IN VIEW OF INDIRA GANDHI'S MOVES TOWARD
DICTATORSHIP" WAS DELETED.

2. PTI DESPATCH TODAY FROM NEW YORK REPORTS (A)
ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS CONFIRM PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO
INDIA PUT OFF INDEFINITELY, (B) VISIT TO PAKISTAN ALONE
CANNOT TAKE PLACE, ACCORDING TO U.S. OFFICIALS, BECAUSE
IT WOULD BE REGARDED AS AN AFFRONT TO INDIA, (C) USG
DECISION NOT TO CRITICIZE INDIA TAKEN BY PRESIDENT AND
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SECSTATE; POLICY TO CONTINUE BECAUSE U.S. WISHES TO

RETAIN SOME MEASURE OF INFLUENCE WITH NEW DELHI.

3. NEW YORK TIMES BUREAU HERE REPORTS NEWSPAPER HAS FRONT PAGE BERNARD GWERTZMAN STORY THIS SUBJECT. ASSUME PTI ITEM IN NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT'S PICKUP.

4. BOMBAY REPORTS ECONOMIC TIMES LEAD EDITORIAL TODAY ON INDO-U.S. RELATIONS WHICH "MIGHT WELL HARDEN WITH THE REPORTED CANCELLATION OF PRESIDENT FORD'S PLAN TO VISIT INDIA LATER THIS YEAR." THIS DEVELOPMENT IT FEELS WOULD BE WIDELY SEEN AS RELATED TO INTERNAL EMERGENCY. GOING ON IT ADDS THE PRESIDENT'S "RECENT VISITS TO SPAIN AND SOME EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES AND FORTHCOMING PLANS TO GO TO CHINA AND, POSSIBLY INDONESIA DO NOT SUGGEST ANY GREAT CONCERN FOR THE DEGREE OF DEMOCRACY PREVALENT IN THESE COUNTRIES." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDED THAT THE AMERICAN POSITION ON NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH WAS ENDORSED AT HELSINKI MUST BE EXTENDED HERE "WITHOUT SINGLING OUT INDIA FOR SOLICITOUS ATTENTION."

5. EMBASSY HAS HANDLED PRESS INQUIRIES SUGGESTING WASHINGTON AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION. PRESS GUIDANCE REQUESTED.
SAXBE

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